



Minutes – April 25, 2022

The regular meeting of the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) was held on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the chair, Capt. Kevin Sweeney. Roll call was taken by the secretary, Mr. Brad Deacon, and the following Council members were present: Ms. Megan Anderson, Chief Deputy Michael Bradley, Mr. Brad Deacon, Mr. Jay Eickholt, Ms. Krystal Fields, Mr. Steven Frisbie, Mr. S. Tutt Gorman, Chief Daryl Green, Ms. Eileen Phifer, Ms. Linda Scott, Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier, Ms. Sara Stoddard, and Capt. Kevin Sweeney.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Frisbie moved to approve the April 25, 2022, agenda. Motion was supported by Ms. Phifer. Agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Frisbie moved to approve the November 8, 2021, meeting minutes. Motion was supported by Chief Green. Minutes were approved as presented.

Reports of Committees

Citizen Corps

There was no report.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCR)

Mr. Eickholt reported that the EPCR Committee met on March 10, which was the first meeting of the new addition from chemical security experts. They will explore some federal programs (ChemLoc) at the next meeting. Mr. Eickholt provided an overview of enforcement and settlements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding violations of EPCR Act rules. In the last six months, there have been three consent agreements whereby facilities had to pay roughly \$155,000 in penalties. Violations range from late reporting of Tier II chemical inventory, not notifying Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) or the state in a timely fashion, and not completing follow-up reports to the state.

Mr. Eickholt announced that EGLE is hosting a Michigan Environmental Emergency Management Conference on June 29 and 30, and registration will open in a few weeks. Information can be found at www.michigan.gov/EGLE (select "outreach" tab). Presenters include local emergency managers, hazmat, EPA, Coast Guard, state agencies, and environmental response professionals.

Ms. Brenna Roos* reported EMHSD recently submitted the three-year application for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant. The grant goes to the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Security Administration through the federal Department of Transportation, and they are still awaiting approval. They are preparing to submit the HMEP progress report for this grant cycle at the end of the month, which entails a summary of what LEPCs have done this year regarding the grant. The Hazardous Materials Training Center will also submit information regarding the number of classes they have hosted and activities they have completed for this grant cycle. Currently, the division's Grants Unit is drafting local grant agreements to be disseminated to LEPCs. LEPCs are required to fortify their participation by signing the agreements. After these are received by the division, LEPCs can begin submitting their emergency plans and plan updates, as well as HMEP support grant paperwork, for reimbursement at the end of this grant cycle. All of these are due in September, and reimbursement will occur in January 2023.

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Ms. Roos announced they are excited to once again host the LEPC workshop at this year's Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo (GLHSTCE), as it had been cancelled the last couple of years due to the Coronavirus. Mr. Mike Young will be presenting on Tier II reporting and Tier II Manager, and she will provide an LEPC update. A high hazardous flammable train (HHFT) company will present on their emergency response capabilities. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 10, at 10 a.m. and is open to emergency managers and LEPC chairpersons. MCCERCC members are welcome to attend, and she will send out the workshop agenda after today's meeting.

Mr. Mike Young from EGLE provided an update on the Sara Title III, Tier II reporting season. In 2022, EGLE sent a mass email indicating the Tier II Manager program was active and reports could be submitted. They also provided a query of facilities that reported the previous year. EGLE conducted a recorded webinar offering instructions on how to log in to the online system, how to submit a report, and information on SARA Title III and Tier II reporting. EGLE conducted three-day workshops on January 12, 19, and 26 that included an introduction to SARA Title III and Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting for which they received positive feedback. Mr. Young announced 6,997 reports were submitted by the March 1 deadline. Unfortunately, both Tier II Manager online programs experienced a technology disruption on February 26 causing a system failure. EGLE immediately contacted EPA to ensure the reporting deadline could be extended. EPA did not want to change the deadline date but did refer to a regulatory discretion. EGLE implemented this discretion so reports in Michigan could still be submitted. They communicated with Tier II facilities, sending out bulletins regarding status of the system failure. They also alerted their Environmental Assistance Center. By March 3, Tier II Manager was on a new server and an announcement was sent out which included a new deadline date for reporting. Mr. Young remarked that because they were able to get in front of the crisis, EGLE did not receive a high volume of calls and emails.

There were questions and discussion from among Council members regarding ramifications of the system failure. Mr. Young stated he believes EPA will honor the regulatory discretion for Michigan. Facilities were advised to put a note on their reports indicating they were victim to the technology disruption due to failure of EGLE's online application system and that they were provided bulletins indicating the State of Michigan is providing a discretion. Facilities were kept in a 10-day EPA regulatory discretion window. Mr. Eickholt clarified that the Tier II program was not directly targeted but happened to be housed adjacent to the program that was. It took the entire server offline, as well as five or six other applications. No data was lost, nor was it compromised or stolen. Ms. Roos remarked that LEPCs should be encouraged to collect paper copies of their Tier II reports for backup purposes. Mr. Young explained that the majority of LEPCs in the state rely on paper copies and PDF files which are mailed in; however, roughly 20 counties rely exclusively on the Tier II Manager program. These counties could download that information directly to CAMEO. Ms. Roos interjected that CAMEO training is free and there are continuous classes being offered. When training information is received from the federal government, she sends it to EMHSD district coordinators to disseminate to LEPCs. Mr. Young clarified that EPA does conduct a few audits per year in the state, as well as compliance enforcement, so facilities should have their reports accessible. He and Ms. Roos would gladly assist by running spreadsheets of the facilities.

Hazard Mitigation

Ms. Phifer reported the Hazard Mitigation Committee had a productive meeting last Tuesday, and she recognized Mr. Matt Schnepf* to provide a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) update

Mr. Schnepf distributed a handout outlining HMGP information. He reported Hazard Mitigation grants for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program just went through the second cycle of applications. FEMA has not yet awarded those submitted for the 2020 cycle. For 2021 grants submitted in January, they expect to hear the selections from the national competition in May or June. For the Hazard Mitigation program, they have two ongoing application processes for two different disasters related to HMGP. The President awarded HMGP funding for Disaster 4494, which is COVID. Michigan has roughly \$43 million in federal share available. They sought project applications for the Southeast Michigan flooding project in February and have received 16 applications totaling slightly over \$50 million. Approximately \$10 million of the \$43 million was set aside to do a statewide application process for all-hazards mitigation with up to \$3 million of that spent on hazard mitigation planning and little over \$2 million for early warning initiatives. For Disaster 4607, which was the flooding in Southeast Michigan last June, that made available around \$10 million, which significantly jumped to \$25.8 million. FEMA will announce the final total available under that program one year

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from the disaster declaration. Once they got past the initial \$28 million for Southeast Michigan, they combined the remainder of the 4494 and 4607 funding, which is about \$41 million total, and did an application process for that as well. NOIs were due on March 31, and they received 20 for \$79 million. These applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Hazard Mitigation Committee and then submitted to FEMA.

Mr. Greg Ostrander* provided an update on forthcoming changes to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) program is a newer FEMA grant program that Michigan previously participated in. EGLE applied for funds and has been awarded monies. Very specific changes were made to the 2019 Michigan Hazard Mitigation Plan to make it HHPD compliant. There is an agreement in principal that the changes will suffice. Mr. Ostrander is awaiting a letter that is currently in the administrative process. They hope to present this at the next Council meeting but would like members to review it prior so a motion can be made.

Captain Sweeney reported that a statewide severe weather drill occurred in March as part of Michigan's Severe Weather Awareness Week. It went out as a voluntary tornado drill encouraging individuals to take shelter. State buildings participated, and it was sent to locals emergency managers as well.

Captain Sweeney remarked that it is flood season, but nothing significant has occurred. During a local webinar, it was reported that the state of Michigan has had some of the rainiest weather of all time.

Captain Sweeney reported the division hosted the first ever, in-person Hazardous Materials Responder Conference earlier this month and about 200 people attended. The first annual Girl Scout Preparedness Day was also hosted by EMHSD staff. They assisted with teaching, and Girl Scouts were able to earn a preparedness patch. In addition, a state-level Burning Acres exercise was held this month. Multiple state partners engaged, and it went well overall.

Captain Sweeney reported the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remains activated for COVID, although they are minimally involved.

Old Business

Ms. Scott provided a Coronavirus update. She reported there are 2,411,464 confirmed and probable cases, with 35,935 confirmed and probable deaths. Over the last seven days, average daily cases are approximately 1,496. Numbers are slowly increasing. They believe that is linked to the newest variant, BA.2, which is increasing the number of those who are getting COVID. In Michigan, 6,666,599 individuals have received at least one dose of the vaccine (66.8 percent of the population), but they would like those numbers to be stronger. Vaccines are available for those ages five and up. Information regarding children five and under is not expected until June. There are booster doses available for those moderately to severely immune compromised, as well as the elderly population, who can receive up to a second booster. The CDC changed how they are communicating. There are now three community levels as opposed to four. MDHHS is working to reinforce planning and education—trying to get people to develop a COVID-19 plan. The website contains new infographics, and social media is being pushed out that promotes developing a plan, vaccinations, people keeping a supply of well-fitting masks, and over-the-counter home tests. They are urging individuals to get tested prior to attending large events and then testing again five days after. Current focus is on COVID therapeutics. Oral medications are now available for individuals with high-risk conditions and are 88 percent effective if taken within five days. Potential COVID surges are anticipated this fall and winter, so they are working to ensure clinicians are comfortable with the therapeutics—who is eligible and what the drug/drug interactions are. They are also trying to get the public to become empowered to advocate for themselves.

New Business

Mr. Deacon provided an Avian Influenza (bird flu) update, indicating it is back this year in a large wave across the county. The state's first detection was in a backyard, non-commercial poultry flock in Kalamazoo County in late February, and the state Incident Management Team went into preparedness mode at that time. There are at least two of them in Macomb County and a total of four in Menominee County. There have been other detections of wild bird and non-poultry too. Commercial flocks matter because of international trade. This would include large-scale livestock, turkeys, broilers for meats, chickens, lay hens, and those types of facilities. There has been a total of 150 across the country since February, and there have been backyard flocks across many states. There has been 79 of those and the total impacted is over 31 million. Mr. Deacon reported Iowa has been hit hard, and there is a Joint Management Team between Michigan and the U.S.

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Department of Agriculture, which involves state agency calls and weekly table discussions. Michigan Allied Poultry Industries has stepped up biosecurity practices on all farms. To date, there are no human health cases in the U.S. The spread is from wild ducks, wild geese, and their migration is heading north. Those types of birds don't appear to be as impacted, if at all, but they can spread the disease to domestics. The biggest challenge is planning for the possibility of a large livestock facility being positive and disposal issues that come with it. As a result, they have a strong partnership with EGLE. Mr. Deacon referred members to www.michigan.gov/birdflu for more information.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Roundtable

Mr. Gorman reported the city of Portland is planning to build a \$10 million wastewater treatment facility. Residents may be upset, as sewer rates will likely double. He thanked the Michigan State Police and Army Corps for their assistance with the project.

Captain Sweeney reminded Council members that the GLHSTCE is about two weeks away for those who have not registered. He also remarked that Administrative Assistants Day is on Wednesday, April 27.

Adjournment

Mr. Eickholt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was supported by Mr. Sehlmeier. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Mr. Brad Deacon, Secretary